

mammalian thrombopoietin, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide comprising a region that is at least 80% identical to the region between amino acid number 45 and amino acid number 206 of SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein said thrombopoietin stimulates MPL-dependent cell proliferation.

13. (twice amended) An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 10 which encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acid residue 45 to amino acid residue [206] 379.

20. (three times amended) An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

a transcription promoter;

a DNA segment encoding naturally occurring, full-length mammalian thrombopoietin, wherein the DNA segment encodes a polypeptide comprising a region that is at least 80% identical to the region between amino acid number 45 and amino acid number 206 of SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein said thrombopoietin stimulates MPL-dependent cell proliferation; and

a transcription terminator.

REMARKS

Entry of the above amendments is requested.

Claims 10 and 20 have been amended for purposes of clarity to recite a polynucleotide or DNA segment encoding naturally occurring, full-length mammalian thrombopoietin. Claim 13 has been amended to recite the sequence of the full-length protein disclosed in SEQ ID NO:2. Support for the amended claim language is found within the specification as filed, such as at page 75 and elsewhere. The claims have thus been limited to polynucleotides, expression vectors, cultured cells and methods wherein the encoded thrombopoietin is a full-length thrombopoietin polypeptide having the amino acid sequence

of a naturally occurring thrombopoietin and comprising a region that is at least 80% identical to the region between amino acid number 45 and amino acid number 206 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Applicants believe that the amended claims are now in condition for allowance, and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (206) 442-6673.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard D. Holly et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary E. Parker", written in a cursive style.

Gary E. Parker
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Enclosures:

Amendment Fee Transmittal (in duplicate)
Postcard